

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of all pending claims (including withdrawn claims) will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-37 (Cancelled)

38. (New) Miniaturised relay comprising:

- a first condenser plate,
- a second condenser plate facing said first condenser plate, in which said second plate is smaller than or equal to said first plate,
- an intermediate space,
- a conductive element arranged in said intermediate space, said conductive element being a detached part capable of moving freely along the intermediate space and being suitable for effecting a movement across said intermediate space from a first end of said intermediate space, defining a first zone, to a second end of said intermediate space, defining a second zone, and vice versa, said movement depending on voltages present in said first and second condenser plates, where said first condenser plate is arranged in said first zone and said second condenser plate is arranged in said second zone,
- a third condenser plate arranged in said second zone, in which said third condenser plate is smaller than or equal to said first condenser plate, and in which said second and third condenser plates are, together, larger than said first condenser plate
- a first contact point of an electric circuit, a second contact point of said electric circuit, in which said first and second contact points define first stops, in which said conductive element is suitable for entering into contact with said first stops and in which said conductive element closes said electric circuit when in contact with said first stops, where the closing of the external electric circuit can be guaranteed even though the conductor element remains at a voltage in principle unknown, which will be forced by the external circuit that is closed.

39. (New) Relay according to claim 38, wherein said first contact point is between said second zone and said conductive element.

40. (New) Relay according to claim 38, wherein said second contact point is likewise in said second zone.

41. (New) Relay according to claim 38, further comprising:
a fourth condenser plate arranged in said first zone, in which said first condenser plate and said second condenser plate are equal to each other, and said third condenser plate and said fourth condenser plate are equal to each other.

42 (New) Relay according to claim 41, wherein said first, second, third and fourth condenser plates are all equal to each other.

43. (New) Relay according to claim 41, further comprising:
a fifth condenser plate arranged in said first zone and a sixth condenser plate arranged in said second zone, in which said fifth condenser plate and said sixth condenser plate are equal to each other.

44. (New) Relay according to claim 43 further comprising:
six condenser plates arranged in said first zone and six condenser plates arranged in said second zone.

45. (New) Relay according to claim 38, further comprising:
a second stop between said first zone and said conductive element.

46. (New) Relay according to claims 38, further comprising:
a third contact point arranged between said first zone and said conductive element, in which said third contact point defines a second stop, such that said conductive element closes a second electric circuit when in contact with said second contact point and said third contact point.

47. (New) Relay according to claim 46, wherein said conductive element comprises a hollow cylindrical part which defines an axis, in the interior of which is housed said second contact point, and a flat part which protrudes from one side of said radially hollow cylindrical part and which extends in the direction of said axis, in which said flat part has a height, measured in the direction of said axis, which is less than the height of said cylindrical part measured in the direction of said axis.

48. (New) Relay according to claim 46, wherein said conductive element comprises a hollow parallelepipedic part which defines an axis, in the interior of which is housed said second contact point, and a flat part which protrudes from one side of said radially hollow parallelepipedic part and which extends in the direction of said axis, in which said flat part has a height, measured in the direction of said axis, which is less than the height of said parallelepipedic part, measured in the direction of said axis.

49. (New) Relay according to claim 38, further comprising:

a third contact point and a fourth contact point arranged between said first zone and said conductive element, in which said third contact point and fourth contact point define second stops, such that said conductive element closes a second electric circuit when in contact with said third contact point and fourth contact point.

50 (New). Relay according to claim 38, wherein assemblies of said condenser plates are each arranged in each of said first and second zones to have a central symmetry with respect to a center of symmetry, and in which said center of symmetry is superposed to the center of masses of said conductive element.

51. (New) Relay according to claims 38, wherein an assembly of said condenser plates arranged in each of said first and second zones has central asymmetry, thus generating a moment of forces with respect to the center of masses of said conductive element.

52. (New) Relay according to claim 49, wherein between said first zone and said second zone there extends two lateral walls, in which there is play between said lateral walls and said conductive element, said play being sufficiently small so as to geometrically prevent said conductive element from simultaneously entering into contact with a contact point of the group formed by said first and second contact points and with a contact point of the group formed by said third and fourth contact points.

53. (New) Relay according to claim 38, wherein said conductive element has rounded external surfaces.

54. (New) Relay according to claim 53, wherein said conductive element is cylindrical.

55. (New) Relay according to claim 53, wherein said conductive element is spherical.

56. (New) Relay according to claim 38, wherein said conductive element has an upper face and a lower face, said upper and lower faces being perpendicular to said movement of said conductive element, and at least one lateral face, in which said lateral face has slight protuberances.

57. (New) Relay according to claim 38, wherein said conductive element is hollow.

58. (New) Relay according to claim 38, wherein said first condenser plate has a surface area which is equal to or double the surface area of said second condenser plate.

59. (New) Relay according to claim 38, wherein said condenser plates is, simultaneously one of said contact points.

60. (New) Use of a relay according to claim 38, as an accelerometer.

61. (New) Use of a relay according to claim 38, as an accelerometer in airbags.

62. (New) Use of a relay according to claims 38, as a tiltmeter.

63. (New) Use of a relay according to claim 38, as a detector of Coriolis forces.

64. (New) Use of a relay according to claim 38, as a pressure sensor.

65. (New) Use of a relay according to claim 38, as a microphone.

66. (New) Use of a relay according to claim 38, as a flow sensor.

67. (New) Use of a relay according to claim 38, as a temperature sensor.

68. (New) Use of a relay according to claim 38, for an acoustic applications.

69. (New) Use of a relay according to claim 38, as a gas sensor.

Serial No.: To be assigned

70. (New) Use of a relay according to claim 38, as a magnetic field sensor.